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FREE INDIA

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FLASHPOINTS OF DISCONTENT

By INDIRA AWASTY

DESPITE dinner-table diplomacy and wet mops being applied over sizzling Janata dissensions, rivalries within the ruling complex have riven the party in half in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The domino theory ought to expect the example to be followed in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh too.

What are the differences about? If these were over ideology, one could have patience. But what is dismaying is that these people are fighting over the control of the citadels of power. And why does one faction or the other want to attain supreme control of the Party and Government apparatus? To be able to administer the State or the country better and to ameliorate the lot of the depressed and poor? No. Each faction leader presumably wants to be able to distribute the profits of office among his own henchmen, kith and kin.

And all this is happening not at a time when the ruling party is securely strapped in their powerful chairs. There is violence, discontent and unrest seething all over the country. The police and administrative services have been devalued, demoralised and rendered almost moribund. The Opposition is stronger and more united than ever before in the history of independent India.

While the big and small Janata leaders squabble over lapping up the cream in Delhi, all Congress (I) efforts were devoted in single minded purpose at Azamgarh. But some people were so busy licking jam at Delhi that they barely glanced back at the looming "I" shadow behind them.

When they do look up, they obviously get petrified Then they dig in even deeper into the pie. Well, if she is coming back let's hoard up fast for at least ten generations and prepare to buy our security.

So much for the political leadership and their intentions. It has been lust for personal power and gain in the blood stream of nearly every post-Independence politician. The poor hapless masses are left out in the cold. Bewildered. Some people say helplessly, if the Janata is no good and we throw them out, whom do we install instead?

The point is that only two things primarily affect the life of the average man—reasonable prices and security. At least in urban centres, both are in scarce supply.

What is it that the Government expects of the average urban dweller? Let the Government say in unequivocal terms that *no one*, including the ruling elite, will consume more than one kg of sugar a month and that everyone will use rapeseed oil. Then fine, we'll all live happily.

Let the government say that no Indian will receive a salary of more than Rs. 500 and that taxes will be collected not only from common citizens but powerful politicians as well. Right. We'll all be satisfied.

Enough attention has already been focused on the rising rate of crime. A great insecurity about personal safety and security of property exists. Then one tends to feel that even without desecrating democratic norms, is it not the business and duty of a Government to "govern", that is, to provide security to law-abiding citizens, to take decisions, to gets things going and done?

Matters seem to be slipping and sliding down the cliff so precipitately that they may become uncontrollable. All the text-book pious promises of the good politicians about rural development and uplift of backward classes may never get a chance to lift off the group.

To at least hold on to the status quo, something needs to be done on an urgent footing. Far from going forward on a progressive programme, the country seem to be backsliding from even the start line.

To get back to the starting point, the ruling party must settle its quarrels once and for

(Contd. on page 7)

Bank Aid Spurs Social Progress

Till about a couple of years ago, the backward Harijan hamlet of Nochikulam of Palayamkottai Block in Tirunelveli District was feared as a centre of criminal and anti-social activities such as theft, arson, murder, illicit distillation of liquor etc. But today it is a community of law-abiding citizens, humming with productive activity. A prominent share in bringing about this transformation goes to the Agricultural Development Branch of the State Bank of India at Tirunelveli. The means adopted by them was a liberal sanction of dairy loans to the inhabitants to enable them to possess milch animals and thereby earn a decent livelihood.

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Immediately the spirit of exploitation is gone, armaments will be felt as a positive unbearable burden. Real disarmament cannot come unless the nations of the world cease to exploit one another.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

SUNDAY May 21, 1978

Free India

SETTLED HAPPILY

Good sense has prevailed in Tamil Nadu labour circles. The bus strike, duly notified, has not taken place. The trade unions realised that pressure tactics could be opposed with effect by the State authorities.

The strike last year caused much inconvenience but the Government was not coerced into surrender. That held perhaps a real lesson for the D. M. K. and other party organisations which inspired and supported the strike move—for their own purposes.

That the All-India Anna D.M.K. stiffened its attitude, with the willing and ready support of the Central Government, is implicit in the course of talks and negotiations. The higher pay now offered should remove the cause for discontent and distrust. Of course, passengers will have to foot a part of the bill without undue grumbling.

The operating cost of transport corporations can be brought down, but only slowly, because the State monopoly has not applied to effect the advice given already by the outside experts, to make the fullest use of vehicles by preventive maintenance.

ERG : A TRIBUTE

THE final years of the freedom movement and the early years of independence were marked by great expectations and tremendous excitement. The National newspapers reflected the mood of the Nation, and recorded the momentous events of the period in great detail. But it was given to a few periodicals to provide the authentic background to political events and detail the new trends in social, economic and cultural thinking and activity. *Free India* which was started by Sri E.R. Govindan in 1939 recaptured the vibrant Indian life at many points.

Mr. Govindan's war for a place among the leading English periodicals of India started with World War II. And it required no small amount of courage to start a periodical when War time censorship was severe though not as severe as the homespun censorship during the Emergency. But Mr. Govindan had the courage, the resourcefulness and the patriotism to serve the cause of the Country outwitting the censor all the time.

***Free India* grew rapidly, thanks to the Herculean labours of Mr Govindan. Week after week *Free India* offered a rich fare of reading matter mirroring the burst of new life in many fields. It provided varied, interesting and elevating fare. Not that it had a monastic air about it. It did dwell on the lighter side of life, on those descending spirals of life with their lights and shadows. But Mr Govindan saw to it that his journal didn't go tumbling down to the lower levels of life and living teeming with vulgarities however interesting and obscenities however attractive. Mr. Govindan nourished *Free India* to be and become a formative influence.**

Mr. Govindan laboured like a giant to achieve this. He edited the journal, attended to its circulation, secured advertisements, contacted political leaders and the leaders in the other new fields pulsating with new life, and seemed to be everywhere doing everything. But all these burdens sat lightly on his shoulders. His face was lit up with a cheer that did not fade even during the worst phase of his illness. A genial and warm friend, a noble colleague and a vivacious writer and conversationalist, Mr Govindan belongs to that band of patriots who toiled hard and without expecting any reward to impart to life and striving some richness, some cheer. —*M.C. Subrahmanyam.*

OF MEN AND MATTERS :

CONCEPTION OF SPACE

Space technology as we understand it is still in its teething stage even in. respect of the advanced nations.

The Soviet Academician, Boris Petrov who is Chairman of Moscow's Intercosmos, an organisation involved in space research had recently given his view that India has the expertise and industrial base to send her first man into space in near future.

While this expert assessment of India's capacity to participate in space technology is quite noteworthy, one may well ask : "Is it so necessary for India too to fall in line with the Western nations to explore into the beyond at such huge expense ?"

Space technology apart, India's acquaintance with space itself stretches to several centuries in the light of her ancient spiritual heritage. The Indian mind is known to have expanded beyond space in order to attain self-realisation.

Compared to the infant stage at which space technology is placed, Indian yogic knowledge can claim to be at its peak in knowing the ultimate within the universe. The human mind itself is a vehicle which is capable of outlasting and over-reaching the most scientific space capsule which modern technology can produce.

It is just about two decades since man has tried to venture into space and the process is so time consuming that it would be several generations from now on to have an idea of what lies in the cosmos, whereas man's controlled mind has given glimpses of the conception of creation itself to some extent. —*DEEVEE.*

Consensus On National Issues

K. RANGASWAMY,
Foreign News And Features

People demonstrate in Courts of Law affecting the dignity and prestige of the judiciary. Students are being freely used as pawns on the political checkerboard by unscrupulous parties. Harijans have become the objects of unwelcome attentions of landlords and some of the benighted upper castes.

These developments have the collective effect of creating law and order problems. This feature analyses the national situation and highlights the need for a code of conduct and evolving consensus on issues through discussions between political parties and other influencial bodies at the popular level.

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, speaking in the Lok Sabha offered to convene a conference of all political parties to evolve measures to check lawlessness and ensure protection to Harijans and other minorities. Mr. Desai was intervening in the debate on the law and order situation in the country. Mr. Desai hoped that opposition members will cooperate in evolving a code of conduct which can be enforced with their joint efforts and not merely by the police. The President, Mr. Sanjiva Reddy has welcomed the idea.

DIGNITY OF COURTS

There are a number of issues which must be regarded as of national importance over-riding party interests. No party in the country will openly say that it will resort to violence if its demands are not conceded. The Prime Mrinister maintained that there is no problem which cannot be settled by peaceful discussions and negotiations. He was very firm that if violence broke out the police must take steps to ensure law and order. In the last few weeks there have been a series of incidents involving violence and strong police action in different parts of the country resulting in loss of life. Earlier there was the incident in Calcutta where the supporters of Congress (I) marched on the State government's Secretariat. There was also the incident inside the Uttar Pradesh legislative Assembly when the Congress (I) members came to clash with the other members. There was the incident in Delhi University where the students manhandled the University authorities. For some months now Mrs. Indira Gandhi has been declining to give evidence before the Shah Commission and her son Sanjay Gandhi's appearance in court has generally been followed by clashes and slogan-shouting. It is unprecedented in the history of India for those summoned to appear before Courts went with their supporters who shouted slogans against the authorities and more or less intimidated the judges. The fact that they continued to function freely without any action being taken against them naturally encourages lawless elements to misbehave and create an atmosphere of disrespect for law and the judiciary. Not a day too soon has come Chief Justice Chandrachud's warning in the Supreme Court the other day in the case involving Sanjay Gandhi that "this court will not tolerate any violation of the dignity or prestige of any court in the country". Almost the first thing a Magistrate or Judge should do is to get the court room cleared of people if there is a likelihood of their creating trouble or indulging in demonstration.

ISSUES FOR NATIONAL CONSENSUS

Now, is it not the responsibility of those who believe in democracy and democratic institutions and the rule of law to put their foot down against such undignified demonstrations? If any party wants to run the government there must first be a united and stable country. It will be futile for those who encourage lawlessness to think that they will be able to control the situation if they came to power. Those who sort the wind are bound to reap the whirlwind.

There are a number of issues of national importance on which there should be a national consensus. One is the basic features of the Constitution and one can note with satisfaction that there is agreement on this issue among all political parties. There is the subject of political defection. This subject has been before Parliament for a long time and Parliamentary Committee has also submitted a report. But so far no party has shown keenness to pursue the matter. Soon after the first Congress split in 1969 Mrs Gandhi's party was interested in securing more defections from the Organisation Congress. The Janata party after its formation last year kept its door open for defectors. The Congress (I) after the party's second split early this year is keeping all doors open to attract members from the other Congress. Of course, it is difficult to define defection in the conditions prevailing in India. But if all political parties are keen without any mental reservation that political morality must be maintained then a satisfactory consensus can be evolved.

Again, there is the case of the students. Should not all political parties agree not to exploit the students for political purposes? The first job of the students is to study and qualify himself. While a student can keep touch with politics he should not be allowed to function as a member of any party. A student who oscillates between education and politics cannot have time to go very far in his academic studies while for the nation it will be a serious loss. India is in a transition stage and it will be for the benefit of the country if all political parties could reach a sound consensus on this issue.

PLAGUING THE HARIJANS

Then there are the reports of atrocities on Harijans and other minorities. These atrocities occur in the State and it is the primary responsibility of the State to maintain law and order. Is there any government which will encourage atrocities on any section of the population. Incidents occur almost spontaneously over some controversy or other and at once communal or caste colour is given to such an incident. If a girl is molested and she happens to be a Harijan girl headlines in newspapers depict it as an assault on a Harijan girl. This assult could have been made on any girl, why only a Harijan girl? Opposition parties have alleged that after the Janata Party came to power, incidents of atrocities against Harijans have increased. But then the basic question remains and that is why do the upper caste people entertain this hatred against the Harijans and what has been done in the last thirty years after independence to cleanse the people's mind of all caste and communal prejudices? It is a national malady and a deep rooted one. While incidents of violence must be judged on merits, all political parties must agree to adopt firm measures where such incidents occured.

The same can be said about labour unrest. The Prime Minister said that everyone will have the right to strike but maintained that no violence will be permitted. Here again the tendency of political parties which control the trade unions is to look at the problem from the point of view of the immediate interest of the workers involved. The Prime Minister has often said that the national economy and the interests of the other sections of the population must also be borne in mind.

It is to be hoped that everyone will welcome the idea of a conference of all parties to consider national issues and evolve a consensus. In advanced countries like the United States, Britain and West Germany political parties so observe a certain code of conduct, written and unwritten, in regard to national issues and these countries present a picture of discipline, prosperity and social justice. Should it be difficult for Indian political parties to evolve a code of conduct in regard to national issues?

TONGUE—FAITHFUL

Soft is the tongue
That speaks
With flawless words
And make wisdom spring
Between scandalous and
Sarcastic words.
It rings the bells of purity
And kindle the incence of
Truth and the bitterness
Of hate and jealousy
Is dissolved in its
Sweetness as it sings
With flawless words.

—*Dr. E. GILBERT.*

Reader Writes

Phonogram Arrogance

Sir,

Last week I wanted to send an urgent phonogramme to Cochin and telephoned 185 more than thrice and every time I was told that I will be called again for the message. Two hours went by and nothing happened. I then contacted the superintendent on duty to complain that I could have gone out to the telegraph office directly to wire my message, but I colud not do this for personal reasons.

I lost the cost of four telephone calls and my purpose was also not served. Neither the person at the 18 desk nor the officer to whom I had lodged my complaint had ever bothered to find out if my message went through.

Having a phone is already an agony because it has proved to be more of a nuisance value than an amenity, but to have to tolerate asinine staff is the last straw.

—A Sufferer
Madras.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

PLAYING WITH FIRE

A divinity professor was asked to preside at the baptism of the latest arrived infant in the already crowded home of the minister of the parish.

The professor gave out for congregational singing one of the paraphrases often used on such occasions in Scotland.

"Let us," he said "sing from the second verse, 'As sparks in close succession rise.'"

To his consternation he observed that the congregation seemed unable to repress a tendency to giggle.

Afterwards asking the minister's man what had been wrong, he received the reply, "You see, sir, the minister's name is Sparks, and yonder is his tenth child."

x x x

INCORRIGIBLE

He was lecturing on temperance. "Some advocate moderation," said he, "and some counsel total abstinence. Now, what is the great drink question ?"

"What'll you have ?" said a voice from the back.

LOOK MUM !

And then there is that one about the kid on the new bike who was showing off in front of his mother. First he rode past the door with feet off pedals and said "Look, mom, no feet. The next time round he yelled: "Hey, mom, look, no feet and no hands." The third time round he murmured : "Mom, look, no teeth."

x x x

DEPOSITION

"Do you consider the defendant a reliable woman ?" asked the judge. "Has she a reputation for veracity ?"

"My lord," replied the witness, "she has to get someone else to call her poultry at feeding time. They won't believe her."

x x x

"I saw a new play in which there was blackmail, kidnapping, shooting, stabbing, suicide, torture and murder".

"You must have left the theatre greatly refreshed by an evening's escape from the grim realities of wartime life."

SHOW UP !

An order issued by a certain Army Command in Britain is an example of how official pronouncements can brighten the dullest day.

It refers to certain coloured leave passes, and runs as follows: "Members of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service will show their pink forms whenever called upon to do so."

x x x

NOT HE !

One of those dear old busybodies who want to help everybody stopped a boy selling newspapers in the street.

"Don't you find that all those newspapers make you tired ?" she asked him:

"Naw, mum", he replied quickly. "I never read 'em."

x x x

"I envy that man who sang the tenor solo."

"Why ? He hadn't much of a voice".

"No, but just think of his nerve !"

MYSTERY !

They were sitting out in the moon light.

"And," she said proudly, "if poverty comes we'll face it together."

"Oh sweetheart," he murmured, "just the mere sight of your face would scare the wolf away."

And ever since he's been wondering why she returned his ring.

x x x

SLIGHTEST LITTLE

He swept the girl into his arms and planted a kiss upon her lips. Suddenly he drew back, a pained expression on his face.

"Oh, my dear," he complained, "will you please stop chewing gum while I'm kissing you ?"

The blase damsel shrugged.

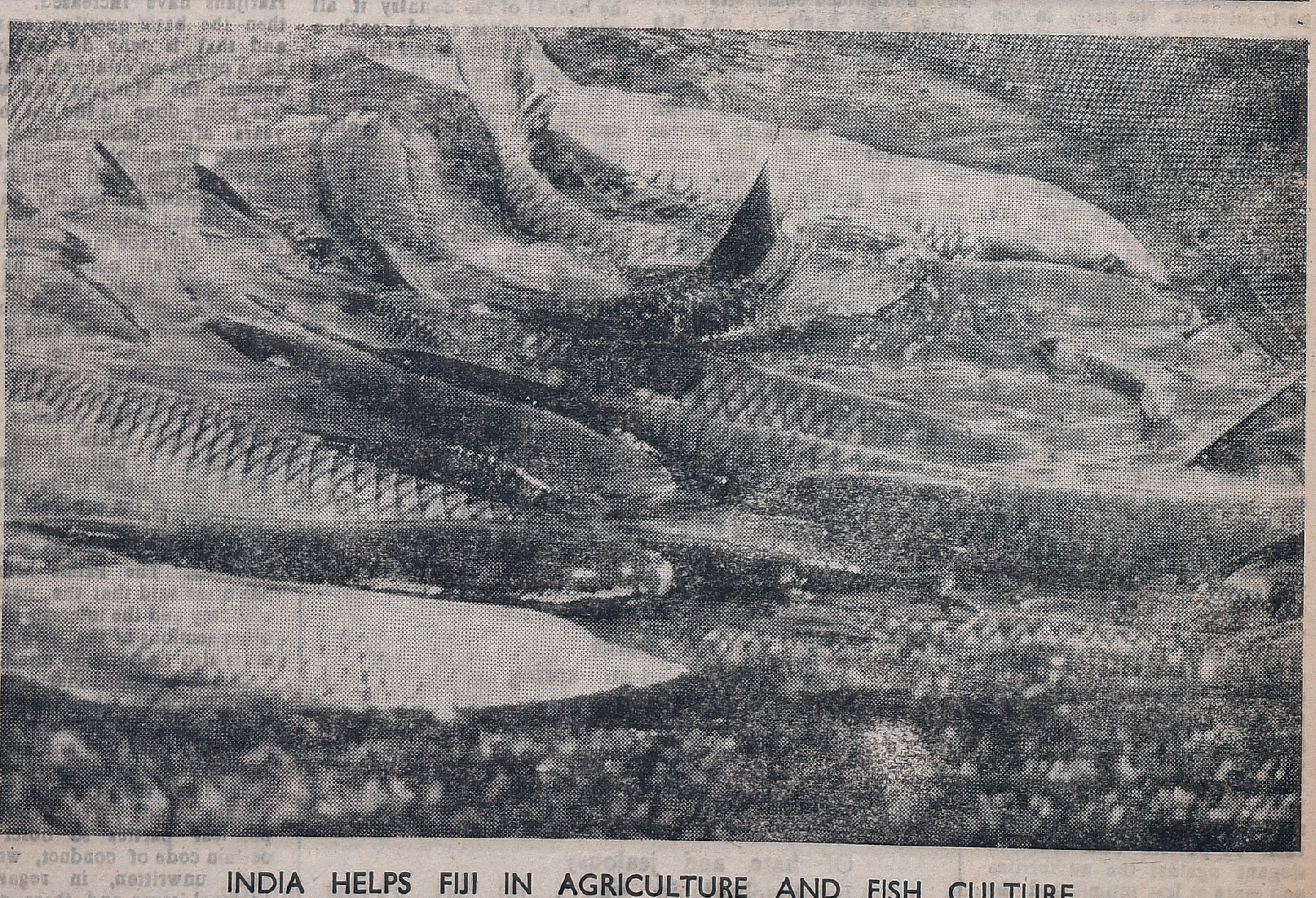
"I can't understand you," she said, peevishly. "The slightest little things annoy you."

x x x

TRAINING !

"I can't understand how you manage to keep so calm, whatever happens," said Robinson.

"Oh, it's just a matter of training," explained Thompson. "You see, I've a wife, five children, two dogs, and a cigarette lighter !"



INDIA HELPS FIJI IN AGRICULTURE AND FISH CULTURE

In the last two decades India has achieved self-sufficiency in many fields of economic activity and is in a position to assist other countries in these fields.

FIJI is a country consisting of over 800 big and small islands on the Pacific ocean. It is one of the countries which gets Indian assistance in improving their economy.

Indian experts in fish culture and agriculture are helping Fiji in weeding out Riva river and also developing fish culture.

Picture shows a brood stock of Grass Carp raised in Fiji from the fingerlings gifted by India.

Some Literary Thoughts

ASHAPURNA DEVI

The concern of a writer is to seize upon the dynamic aspects of life. His literary thoughts can, thus, never remain static. Ashapurna Devi, Bengali novalist and short story writer, is a tormented soul. She has been "trying to say something" about simple human beings who are her main concern. She believes that every human being has more inherent and abiding elements in him than could be felt from the peripheral level of his life.

WHENEVER there is some discussion on standardisa- of literary ideals, I say I have no faith in the theory or a strait-jacket form of literature. The world is so vast; Wonderful are its elements, more wonderful is the perpetual current of life and its impulses. Literature tries to reflect the perennial stream of life and so it cannot be limited to specifics.

The beliefs, the sense of values and conventions may differ from person to person; the truth which is sublime to one, may be a sham trifle to another. Again, a change in the values and ideals may take place in the life time of the same individual. Environment is responsible for this creation and destruction which go on, hand in hand.

TASK OF LITERATURE

The concern of the literateur is to seize upon this dynamic aspect of life and thus his literary thoughts can never remain static. Age moves forward; time changes and there is also a change in social attitudes. In the same way, there is a transformation in the question of the basic goal of life in a writer, which, in turn, brings mutation in the medium, technique and method of application of his writing. But there is no change in the basic values or literar ideals of a writer nor in his sense of truth.

I am an insignificant worshipper of literature, but nevertheless, having lived in the realm of art for almost half a century, I feel I could delineate a little about my own literary endeavour.

Every artist chooses themes in accordance with his own mental set up. He just cannot do otherwise. With me, the raw material is supplied by the cobwebs of the ordinary social human beings, cloistered within the limits of their homes. Quite ordinary people they are, who at the cost of tremendous effort go on discharging their debts of daily life, just the kind of human beings who are torn at every step by unrealised desires and arduous longings. And beneath that crumbled existence, their tormented souls cry out for the sublimation of heavenly ambrosia.

To my mind, the task of literature is to communicate this indistinct groan to the minds of other people. Throughtout my humble literary career I have tried to follow this principle. I have restricted the province of my subject matter strictly to the world I am familiar with, never trespassing the field of my environmental observations. Yet I have a feeling that amidst this familiar world lies hidden an inexhaustible fund of mystery. What we can see in human beings is just the outer tip and the major portions of their entity remain unseen which are again tormented by an eternal conflict between life and its quests. Man is helpless in counteracting not only the circumstances but also his own mental make-up. He is quite ignorant that his sub-conscious being within him entirely guides his conscious self and like a spider he imprisons himself in the webs he is constantly weaving around himself.

A TORMENTED SOUL WRITES

These simple human beings in the background of their domestic set-up are the threads of my matrix. All along I have tried to say something on their behalf. Since my childhood, again and again, the unknown inner world of human mind manifested itself. To my amazed and immature vision, the curtain of mystery has gradually unfurled. This has led to a

(Contd. on page 7)

Year Of The Child

The United Nations has designated the year 1979 as the "International Year of the Child" recognising the fact that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give. The whole year will be devoted to enhance the awareness of the needs of the children, who are the future human resources.

For the benefit of India's 230 million (O-4 years) children, constituting 42 per cent of the total population of the country, the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development has drafted a plan with an emphasis on family life as the source of basic security for children.

The plan envisages programmes for cutting down maternal and infant mortality rates, especially in rural and tribal areas. It also aims at ensuring basic health services to children and providing nutrition to undernourished children (0-6 years) belonging to the weaker sections of the society.

For The Week 21st May To 27th May 1978

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika $\frac{1}{4}$

THE first part of the week stimulates enthusiasm and success in efforts. Renew your contacts and try to complete your outstanding work. Correspondence will be favourable. Family happiness is assured. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Health will be well maintained. Avoid long distance journeys. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika $\frac{3}{4}$ Rohini
Mrigashirsha $\frac{1}{2}$

THIS week opens with an opportunity to diversify your activities. You will be launching new projects and developing new contacts. Financial position will improve. Investment made in real estate will yield good results. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Health requires attention. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha $\frac{1}{2}$ Arudra
Punarvasu $\frac{3}{4}$

THERE is speculative attraction this week. Minor speculative gains are indicated. Investments made in real estate will yield good results. Official atmosphere will be normal. But avoid friction with associates. Family members will be cooperative. Keep an eye on children. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Change of place is indicated for some. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 21st & 22nd.

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu $\frac{1}{4}$ Pushya
Ashlesha

THIS week shows mixed results. You will be able to complete some of the long pending works. Financial position will cause some anxiety. But you will be able to raise considerable amount by the end of this week. Family members will be cooperative. Children's progress will give you much pleasure. No major change in office. Favourable days: 25th & 26th.

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni $\frac{1}{4}$

THIS week, you will be able to complete some of the long pending works. You should try to consolidate the gains already achieved. Financial position will be satisfactory. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Domestic scene will be pleasant. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourabiy. Partnership matters require attention. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 26th & 27th

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni $\frac{3}{4}$ Hastha
Chitra $\frac{1}{2}$

THE week starts with an opportunity to renew your old contacts. Business will improve. Promotional possibilities are bright. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Family atmosphere will be pleasant. But keep an eye on youngsters. Financial position will improve. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Avoid long distance journeys unless necessary. Favourable days: 24th & 25th

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra $\frac{1}{2}$ Swathi
Visakha $\frac{3}{4}$

THIS week's results will be ordinary. You should try to consolidate the gains instead of expanding your activities. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Domestic scene will be coludy. Avoid arguments with elders. Also keep an eye on children. Short distance journeys are indicated. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 23rd & 24th

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha $\frac{1}{4}$ Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THIS week is favourable to finalise financial matters. You will be able to find new sources of income. Promotional possibilities are bright. With some tact and diplomacy, you will be able to gain the attention of your superiors. Property matters could be finalised favourably. Favourable days: 26th & 27th

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha $\frac{1}{4}$

THE whole week will be progressive. You can go ahead with your plans. There is scope for financial improvement. Minor speculative gains are also indicated. Domestic responsibility will increase. But you can expect cooperation from your family members. You should continue your fforts in your business. You can expect better results in the near future. Favourable days: 24th & 25th

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha $\frac{3}{4}$
Shravana-Dhanistha $\frac{1}{2}$

THIS week shows mixed results. Financial position will be satisfactory. But avoid speculative investments for some more time. Family responsibility will increase. But you can expect the cooperation from your family members. There is no major change in office You should continue your efforts to get proper recognition and reward. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Health requires attention. Favourable days: 26th & 27th

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta $\frac{1}{2}$ Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada $\frac{3}{4}$

THIS week is good for personal matters. But heavy expense will cause anxiety. Worries regarding professional matters are also seen. But the position will improve during the later part of the week. There is need for maintaining cordial relations with superiors. Domestic scene will be pleasant. Children's progress will give you much pleasure. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days. 22nd & 23rd

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada $\frac{1}{4}$
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THIS week starts well. Prospects are bright. Go ahead with your plans. You will be able to start new ventures. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children could be finalised favourably. You can expect some benefits from opposite sex. Financial position will improve. Change of place is indicated for some. Health will be well maintained. Favourable days: 25th & 26th

Muscovite's Diary

IVAN IVANOV

WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

THIS time the Eleventh World Festival of Youth and students is going to be held in the Cuban capital in the Havana University. Energetic preparations for the Havana Festival are now underway in accordance with the resolution of the Twelfth Congress of the IUS.

Regarding this festival, Miroslav Stepan, the President of the International Union of Students (IUS) told in an interview to the Prague Correspondent of the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, in Moscow that "the Eleventh World Festival of Youth and Students will become a new milestone in the struggle of youth and students of the world against imperialism, reaction and aggression, against colonialism, racism and zionism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, for general and complete disarmament, for happiness of the younger generation".

As Miroslav Stepan said, the history of youth festivals is inseparable from the history of the IUS. The union has taken an active part in the preparation and holding of all festivals. The secretariat of the IUS has set up a festival commission led by the General Secretary of the IUS Fathi El-Fadl.

Seminars and conferences, meetings and discussions, will be held in the Havana University. The main theme of these celebrations will be the role and tasks of student organisations in anti-imperialist struggle.

x x x

WORLD OF INDIAN POETRY

The anthology of Indian poetry entitled "Lightings and Lotuses" containing the poems of the great Indian poets of the 20th century, has been published in the Soviet Union. A Soviet poet, Sergei Severtsev, who has devoted to translations for almost 25 years has ranslated 29 collections of Indian poets into Russian.

Tagore is brilliant in everything, his poems are lofty even when he speaks of the most ordinary things. The Soviet people especially highly appreciate his humanism, his striving for truth and justice, and irreconcilability to evil and lies. "I am proud of the fact that I had

(Contd. on page 7)

Pull Out TNCA Cricket From Rut

By P.N. SUNDARESAN

THE Tamilnadu Cricket Association is obviously worried about its cricket. Organisationally, it runs the best pattern of cricket in the country, in the districts as well as in the City. The game is taken step by step, up the ladder, from the school stage to the senior-most state level. Every season starts with matches between the schools inter see, in the city as well as in the mofessil. This leads to the inter-district schools tournament and, two tournaments for juniors and seniors in the city. At the end of these competitions, representative teams of district and city schools meet each other for the City v Districts schools annual tie. A similar pattern is followed for the next grade of cricket leading to the annual City v Districts tournament, sometimes twice a year, for the C.P. Ramaswami Iyer trophy. Apart from these, there are the league tournaments in every district and in the city along with the prestigous Buchi Babu Memorial tournament.

But, all this well-planned effort has not yielded the best results and TNCH has still to pride itself on a single victory in the Ranji trophy championship achieved in the year 1955-56. Even neighbouring Karnataka, which for many years in the championship was behind Tamilnadu, has won the trophy twice in the last five years. Apart from the fact Karnataka has produced a good crop of test cricketers in the last decade to the one Venkatraghavan Tamil nadu has gories.

TNCA has good cause to be concerned over the standard of its cricket and cricketers. Obviously they have been bestowing serious thought on finding out the snags, which may persist organisationally and stand in the way of the proper blossoming out of game, as is evident by the meeting it had with the captains of the senior division league teams recently to tighted up the first division championship One hopes this had been a fruitful meeting.

However, is is firm view based on my close association with the playing side of cricket in the store first as a player myself and then as a cricket correspondent that the leane for the failure to achieve high standards lag or the cricketers themselves. I will stress on their inability to appreciate in full the facilities which the Association is providing them at quite a cost. Till The Association was formed four decades ago, the players had to depend on their own resources to pursue the sport. But their sustenance was their enthusiasm for and love of sport particularly cricket. When the Madras Cricket Association was out of the nucleus of the Indian Cricket Federation formed as a protest against the dominance of the Madras Cricket Club, the game became organised and the enthusiasm of the players found a proper outlet in the league championships and other tournaments organised for them, to which some private clubs also contributed their quota. In due course the Association stepped up their activity by opening nets for practice for the players in north and south of the city and coaching programmes.

The players, however, have not utilised the facilites properly. And their enthusiasm has not matched the organisational benefits that have accued to Initially there is a wave of pre-season enthusiasm which they seem to drag their feet to the grounds, more on getting a postponement on some flimsy ground or other. And as the season advances most of the teams lose interest in their matches, some of them finding it difficult even to field a full side. This basic lack of enthusiasm to play the game, which again depends on a real love for it, is, in my view, the main reason for the failure to realise the fruits of good organisation. And unless the players themselves realise this, no amount of good advice can yield proper fruit. One hopes that the captains of teams, who attended the recent meeting realised this and went home with a firm resolve to play their part in pulling out TNCA cricket from the rut it had got into.

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all. The country cannot afford the luxury of such an unstable situation.

If the contradiction within the Party are so irreconcilable, which they appear to be, let it make whether readjustments that need be to made. If certain sections have to break off sooner or later, let it be sooner, so that we can get going with the business of governing and administering the country.

Discipline can be restored to the country once the leaders dimonstrate any seriousness of purpose and discipline themselves. Most trouble in universities and labour organisations appears to be fostered by contending political rivals. Let all this hunger for personal power cease forthwith. Let not the politicians hold 650 million people to ransom and force them to sink deeper into a morass.

Legitimate demands must be met and grievances removed speedily. Discipline needs to be imposed on certain traditionally profiteering sections of the community—like the traders and others. There is nothing democratic about allowing exploitation of any kind.

Regarding atrocities on the harijans and depressed classes, every one without exception, condemns such acts against humanity. But why do such inhumane conditions exist at all in this time and age? One suspects that this sore is kept alive deliberately, for political parties of all hues to take advantage of at various points of time.

The caste system in India appears to thrive on the democratic model of "votes". How would politicians get votes if there were no castes, harijans, minority communities, scheduled tribes and weaker sections? The political system is living on the fat off the bones of these people whose cause they allege to espouse.

In their good and laudable efforts for uplifting the poor, it is not in the interest of the bourgeois democratic government to wipe out the lower-middle, middle-middle, and salaried classes by spiralling prices of articles of food and daily consumption.

If by depriving the barely humanly living Indians, one can feed the starving Indians, then, by all means go ahead with any programme. But let it be demonstrated to the middle class how their sacrifice in living standards has benefitted their less fortunate brethren.

It appears to be an exercise in futility if the middle class is crushed, alienated and levelled to the ground. The gap between the extremely rich and privileged politicians and the urban and rural poor will yawn even wider.

People say that the malaise lies with the innate indisciplined character of the Indian people. On the one hand, we are given statistics to prove that the mass of people are so poor that they are hardly able to keep body and soul together. On the other, one's experience is that those who are breathing are threatened by extermination.

One tends to feel that the sickness is with the system of governance and the personal integrity of its functionaries.

—Mainstream.

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wonderful realisation in my mind that every human being has more inherent and abiding elemets in him than could be felt from the mon and insignificant are yet pregnant with sweetness, bright-peripheral level. The people who are apparently considered as common ness and spice of life. Even the persons who are regarded as unimportant in the eyes of society may be capable of sublime thoughts and spiritual realisation. All these concepts I have tried to impart through a large number of short stories. The flux and reflux of these very realisations had tormented my soul and ultimately compelled me to write.

In retrospect, my mind has been tormented with questions that created within an upsurge against the anomalies of the society. Why should there be so much inconsistencies in the conditions of human beings. I used to wonder. These questions used to agitate me very early in life and "Pratham Pratishruti" is an attempt on my part to voice some of these upheavals in my mind. The heroine of this novel has been portrayed as the symbol of revolt who has longed to see the prison walls of conventions demolished to secure for women equal footing with men.

MESSAGE OF ETERNAL HOPES

It is true that the women have overcome quite a measure of their helplessness. I consider it a blessing that I have been a witness to this emancipation. But a lot more remains to be done. The type of society in which both men and women will be free to assert their own rights with dignity as individuals is yet to be achieved.

Of course, there had been moments of despair in my literary career. But I have come to realise that as there is discontent, so there is fulfilment. The vitality of our world is invincible. To my mind the task of literature is to uphold the message of eternal hope and reconciliation. Only art can sap with confidence that man is not merely a creature of flesh and blood. The ultimate purpose of the literary artist is to reveal this triumphant soul, rescuing it from the shambles of superficial feelings and sentiments and to restore pristine faith in humanity.

(Translated from the Bengali original script.)

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the honour to translate the great works of the most popular Indian poet in the Soviet Union", says Severtsev.

"I had an occasion to visit India. As a poet and artist, I was delighted with its charming nature, music, dances and famous architectural monuments. But meetings with Indian people in different walks of life like workers, peasants, craftsmen, traders, artists, actors, writers, poets, and students was a real experience. My visit to India won my heart", says the Soviet poet.

"After that visit, I felt a great disire to help my countrymen to get a better idea of India. Many Soviet publishing houses started bringing out collections of my translations of Indian poems. When working on them, I tried to convey their precise meaning and at the same time to preserve the specific features of Indian poetry, its wide range of subjects, deep thought, easy style and refinement", says Severtsev.

National Award For Young Director

GIRISH Kasaravalli from Karnataka can claim to be the youngest film director in India to have earned the "Golden Lotus" —the coveted national award for the Kannada full-length film GHATA SHRADDA—his maiden effort at independent film direction.

The judges adjudged GHATA SHRADDA the best feature film from among outstanding entries like Ray's SANTRANJ KE KHILADI and Shyam Benegal's BHUMIKA.

However, for Girish, this is not his initial claim for recognition at the national level. When he made AVSHESH, a short film on an experimental basis as a final year student of the National Film and Television Institute at Pune, it won an award for the "best experimental short film of 1976".

Film-making was far from Girish's idea of chalking out a good career for himself. His home village is Kasaravalli near Shimoga in Karnataka State. Young Girish had, in 1972, just passed his B Pharm from the Kasturba Medical College at Manipal and was planning to take up a job in the drug industry. The turning point came when he saw Pattabhirama Reddy's most controversial film, SAMSKARA, based on social practices and prejudices in the Indian society. It made a tremendous impact on his thinking pattern and he realised for the first time that a film could serve as a vital instrument for shaping the minds and moods of millions of the Indian people, provided it conveyed a message. Films fascinated him as a medium of creative expression.

Under the personal guidance and inspiration from his uncle, Mr. K.V. Subbanna, a writer in Kannada and himself a film artiste, Girish started taking further interest in films.

It was with some trepidation that he had applied to the Pune Institute for admission to the Diploma Course in Film Direction. It came as a great surprise to him when he got selected to the Course. From then on, he took the trouble of knowing all about film making by reading books on the subject published in India and outside, attending seminars on films throughout the country and meeting prominent film makers and having discussions with them.

The authorities of the Pune Film Institute had entered his experimental short film AVSHESH for competition along with other films under the category "short films" without his knowledge in 1976. It was therefore a pleasant surprise to him when he received a telegram saying that he had won an award.

His first practical experience in directing a film came when he started working as an assistant director for B.V. Karnath in the shooting of CHOMANNA DUDI. Later he served as an associate director for the filming of KAKANA KOTI and was for some time, technical adviser when Nagabharana's GRAHANA was made.

The film, GHATA SHRADDA is based on Girish's own script from the novel of that name in Kannada written by Dr. U.R. Anantha Murthy.

Early this month, Girish got married to the Kannada film actress, Vaishali.

The next film on which he is busy, is titled: AKRAMANA in Kannada and is based on a novel by Vaikuntharaju. Most of the shooting is to be done on location and the campus of the Mysore University at Manasa Gangotri will from a scenic background.

Girish says that in order to create a taste for realistic and artistic films among the people, it is necessary to form film societies in all neighbourhoods and hold discussions on the films exhibited.

He has a special linking for making films on themes relating to psychoanalysis. At present, he is engaged in making a documentary film for the Information and Publicity Department on a tribal community of South Canara called Koragaru.

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"Happy Hour"

A Pub owner, reports the LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH, thought up a way to increase his trade by selling spirits at half price during what he called "happy hour". One of the customers, a teenager, downed 32 whiskies. After that he s umped unconscious and died a little while later. The coroner's verdict was acute alcoholic poisoning. Commenting on the tragic case, it is said that the "happy hour". promised by the pub owner to his customers was really happy only for himself because it increased his trade and, consequently, his profits.

Dharma Upanayanam

With the blessings of Sri Ramanuja Jeer of Sri Vanamamalai Mutt free Upanayanam was celebrated for six poor boys at Sri Vanamamalai Mutt, Triplicane, Madras, on May 12, under the auspieces of Srimathi Ranganayaki Ammal Trust, Madras.

Laser And Seeds

We can look forward to the time when the laser will be classed as an agricultural implement. Several experiments show that laser beam use in agriculture looks extremely prom sing. It has been found that the germinating power of seeds treated by laser increases by 10–20 per cent. After treatment with it cucumbers and tomatoes blossom earlier and fuller: The vitamin content in plants tend to increase and the carotin content in spinach, carrots and apricots goes up, and so does ascorbic acid content in black currants, pepper and cabbage. The laser beam also makes plants more resistant to certain diseases.

Fight Is In One

The court in the little Italian town of Trasacco recently ordered a taxi driver who had overrun a woman to pay her 20,000 lire for every day she spent in hospital (at first the compensation was only one-fourth of that sum). In fixing the amount, the court took into account the functions performed by an Italian housewife, says the journal JFUNE AFRIUE. The court ruling listed them as follows: "Wife—mother—maid —cook—laundress—housewife—seamstress—housekeeper".

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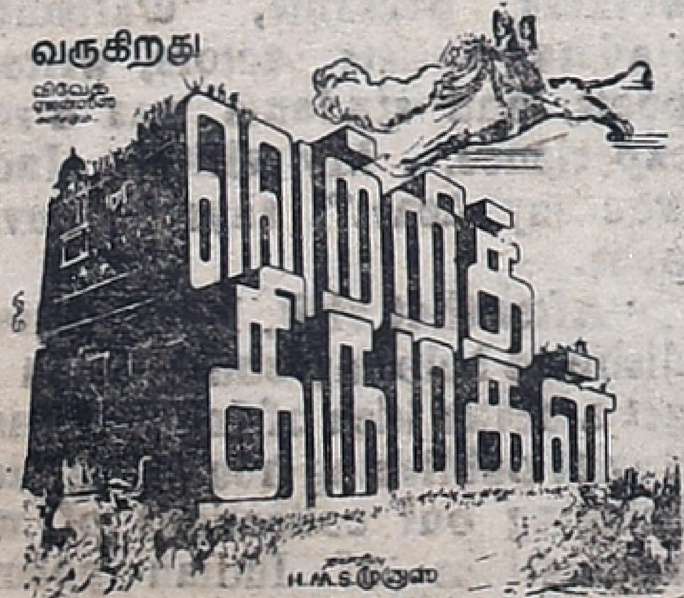
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ACE F. P. GUIDE

Mr. Dilli is a teacher in Thozhuvur in Tiruvellore Panchapat Union of Chinglepet District. He has rendered a significant service in spreading the message of family planning.

He had the tubectomy operation in 1960. Later explaining that it will not affect them in any way he persuaded his four brothers to have the operation. His uncle and about twenty teachers followed suit.

Panchayat Union officials explain with pride that they are doing Family Planning propoganda utilising the services of Dilli who is also a good public speaker.

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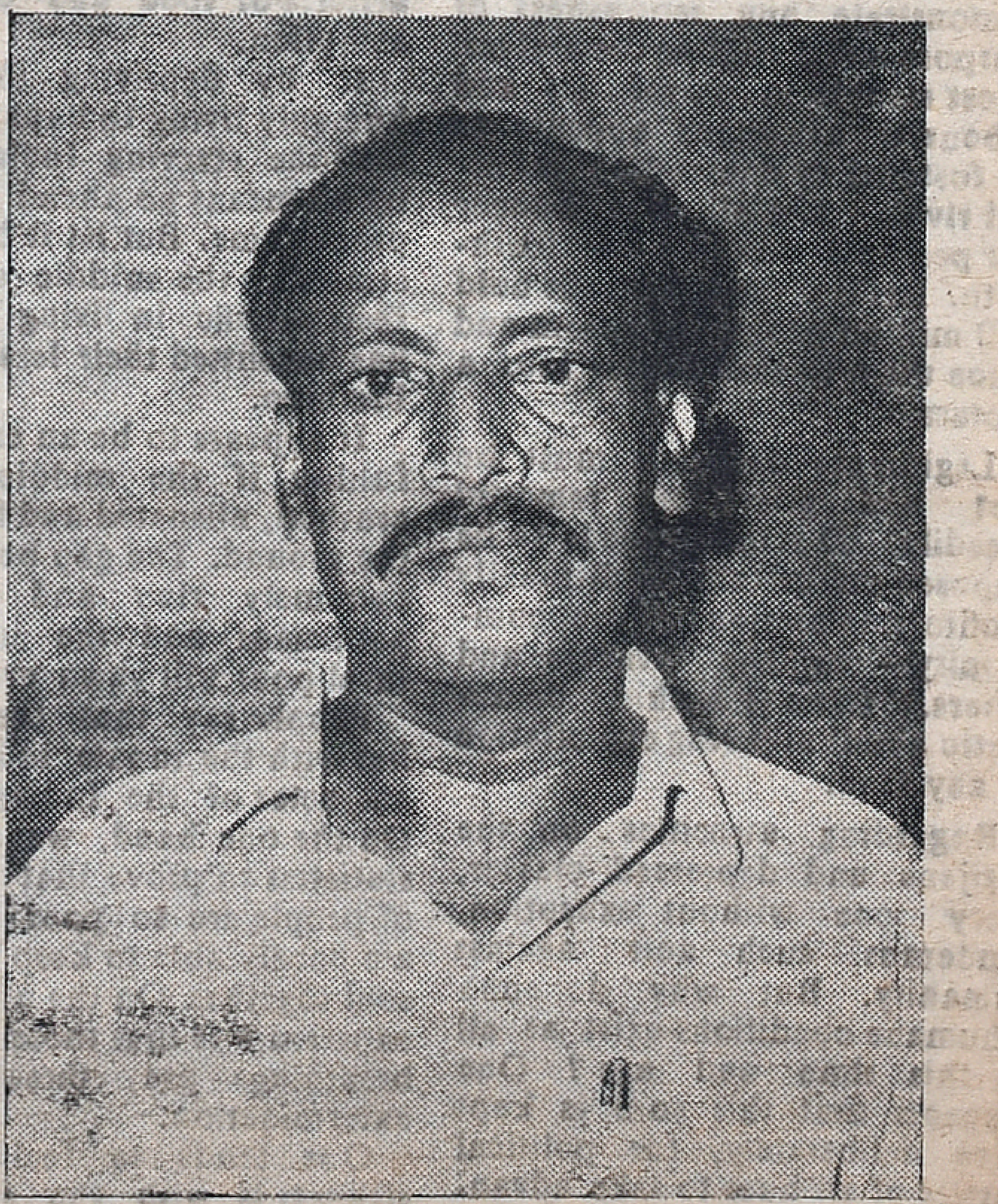

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